

PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS, The City of Falls Church, Virginia, with great admiration and respect, honors Colonel Mary Gavin on the occasion of her retirement after more than 16 years of dedicated service with the City of Falls Church Police Department; and,
- WHEREAS, Mary Gavin was sworn in as an Arlington County Police Officer in 1986, where for 22 years she rose through the ranks serving as a Patrol Officer, School Resource Officer, Criminal Investigations Lieutenant, Operations District Commander, Vice Narcotics Commander, and played a critical part in Arlington County's prolonged response after the attack on the Pentagon on September 11, 2001; and,
- WHEREAS, Mary Gavin joined the City of Falls Church Police Department as a Major in 2007, serving as Deputy Chief for five years before her appointment as Chief of Police in 2012; and,
- WHEREAS, under Mary Gavin's tenure and leadership, the City of Falls Church Police Department promptly adopted 21st Century Policing Principles, was an early advocate for restorative justice practices within the agency, and enthusiastically embraced the City's Use of Force Review Committee's recommendations for transparent use of force policies and tactics; and,
- WHEREAS, Mary Gavin has played a vital role in re-imagining public safety throughout our region, serving on various local and national law enforcement groups including as a member of the Board of Directors for the International Association of Chiefs of Police, Chairperson for both the Executive Board for the Northern Virginia Criminal Justice Training Academy and Northern Virginia Regional Chief's and Sheriff's Association, and has been an active member of the Police Executive Leadership Alumni Association and Washington Regional Alcohol Program for Northern Virginia; and,
- WHEREAS, Mary Gavin took an oath when she was hired to, "Preserve, Protect, and Defend the Constitution," an oath she never broke, and kept faith with the public she so honorably served; and,
- WHEREAS, Mary Gavin lives and breathes the highest standards of public safety. Her professional conduct and devotion to law enforcement have been made evident through her nearly 40 years of public service, and she has rightfully earned the trust and support of the community, her fellow officers, and all those who have had the privilege to call her a colleague, mentor, and friend;

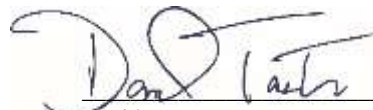
NOW, THEREFORE, I, DAVID TARTER, Mayor of the City of Falls Church, Virginia, do hereby declare Thursday, December 14, 2023, as

CHIEF MARY GAVIN DAY

in the City of Falls Church, Virginia, and extend my heartfelt congratulations to Chief Gavin and her family on her remarkable career in law enforcement, her steadfast commitment to The Little City, and the legacy of service she will leave behind.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Falls Church, Virginia to be affixed this 14th day of December, 2023.




David Tarter, Mayor